

Remarks

In the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, the Examiner objected to the disclosure. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7-8, 10, 12, 15, 25-26, 28, 31-32, 34, 36, 39, 41, 43, 46-47, 49-50 and 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the article in the name of Langewouters et al. The Examiner rejected claims 3, 11, 27, 33, 35 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Langewouters et al. and further in view of the article in the name of Bank et al. or the U.S. Patent to Sarvazyan et al. 5,524,636. The Examiner rejected claims 9, 16-19, 22-23, 40, 48 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Langewouters et al. and further in view of the article of Bruel et al. The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-21, 23-30, 32-38, 40-45 and 47-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the combined teachings of Bank et al. and Sarvazyan et al.

By this Amendment, Applicants' Attorney has amended each of the independent claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, each of the independent claims has been amended to include the limitation of prior dependent claims 49-54. In particular, each of the independent claims has been amended to include the prior limitation that the local deformation is an intramural deformation. In the Examiner's rejection, the Examiner failed to present a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness of prior dependent claims 49-54.

Initially, each of the articles cited by the Examiner in his rejection were well known to the inventors prior to the filing of this application as noted in the Background Art portion of the application. As further noted in the Background Art section, a number of factors limited the success of prior methods of measuring the mechanical property of a vascular wall. As noted on page 4, lines 10-15, "Another factor limiting the success of previous methods is that properties of the vessel as a whole or in cross-section are measured. In the previous reports on the arterial compliance over a wide range of intraluminal pressure (Bank et al., 1999; Kaiser et al., 2001), the compliance was inferred from the geometrical changes such as

artery diameter and lumen cross-section based on a numerical model (Langewouters' model; Langewouters et al., 1984).”

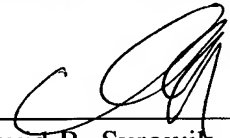
As further noted on page 13, lines 8-10 of the specification, local, intramural deformations, with altered transmural forces, allow one to make new and detailed measurements about the mechanical properties of a vessel.

Clearly, this feature is neither taught, disclosed nor discussed by any of the references of record.

Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicants' Attorney respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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